

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an expression construct capable of producing high levels of erythropoietin in mammalian cells. More particularly, the expression construct includes an erythropoietin coding region fused to a unique 5'-UTR sequence and a truncated 3'-UTR. The present invention also provides methods of synthesizing large amounts of erythropoietin and in increasing serum erythropoietin level in individuals in need thereof.